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MIAMI BOMB PLOT

Democratic Hq wiretapping linked to CIA assassins

ART KUNKIN

Less than two weeks before the opening of the Republican National Convention, a press conference held at the Los Angeles Press Club heard a woman speaker say that the five men caught wiretapping the Democratic Party National Committee headquarters in Washington's Watergate Hotel were not only involved in the Central Intelligence Agency, the Bay of Pigs invasion, and President Kennedy's assassination but also with plans first revealed last year by Los Angeles Police informer Louis Tackwood to disrupt the Republican National Convention. (See the *Los Angeles Free Press*, October 22, 1971.)

These charges were made by Mae Brussell, a well known private investigator into American political assassinations for the past nine years. She was accompanied by Michael McCarthy of the Citizens Research Investigation Committee, one of the CRIC investigators who originally checked out Tackwood's charges, and Paul Krassner, editor of *The Realist*. The current issue of *The Realist* (August, 1972) contains a 20-page article by Ms. Brussels which was distributed to the newsmen at the press conference as the basis for Ms. Brussels assertions.

According to Ms. Brussell the Watergate Hotel, located in Washington, D.C., was the home of John and Martha Mitchell at the time of the attempted wiretapping of the Democratic Party National Committee. John Mitchell, former Attorney General of the United States, had shortly before resigned that prestigious position to head the important Committee to Re-Elect the President.

Also housed in the Watergate Hotel complex are the offices of the Democratic National Committee.

In the early morning hours of June 17, 1972, five men were arrested removing parts of the ceiling from the sixth floor panels in the Democratic National Headquarters. These men possessed expensive electronic equipment, cameras, walkie-talkies, burglary tools, and other James Bond accessories.

Two of the men arrested had in their possession the telephone number of Howard Hunt, White House consultant who had previously worked with the CIA for 21 years.

James McCord, Jr., employed as Chief of Security for Mitchell's Committee to Re-Elect Richard Nixon, was one of the five men arrested. McCord was formerly employed by the CIA for nineteen years, having left two years previously at approximately the same time as Hunt. McCord's position with the CIA was Chief of Security over the entire grounds of the immense CIA compound at Langley, Virginia. According to Mae Brussell, this put McCord in a very high, responsible position in relation to CIA Director Helms who could not conceivably carry out any intelligence planning without relying on McCord to ensure that CIA plans were kept secret.

Nine persons (all registered with false names suspiciously similar to names used in novels written by Howard Hunt) stayed at the Watergate Hotel May 26 to 29, and again June 17 and 18. Five of them, the night of their arrest, were discovered in the Democratic Party office when security guard Frank Wills noticed pieces of scotch tape over the door locks. Washington police arrived and made the arrests.

According to Don Freed of CRIC (who was not at the press conference but submitted additional material to the *Free Press),* within six weeks of the first arrests it was known that at least 12 men and $114,000 were involved, and that the invaders were discovered putting forged documents of some kind *into* files, not taking papers out. They were not burglars, they were not functioning with a "bugging" budget or with the numbers usually associated with mere wiretapping.

(We must caution, however, that the *Free Press* has no means at present of independently verifying facts such as documents being planted instead of being removed, and that Don Freed, evidently, bases much of his information on a collation from such sources as the *Washington Post,* which has published carefully documented articles on the raid. Freed has also made investigative trips to

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The Press conference at the L.A. Press Club last Tuesday in which Mae Brussell, center, tried to make clear to reporters that details of the fantastic plot to disrupt the Republican National Convention (which former police informer Louis Tackwood told about last September) were being corroborated by the equally fantastic details of the attempted wiretapping of the Democratic Party National headquarters at the Watergate Hotel in Washington, D.C. To the left is Michael McCarthy, of the Citizens Research and Investigative Committee (CRIC), while to the right is Paul Krassner, editor of *The Realist*. (Photo by Art Kunkin).

Washington, D.C.).

Following the raid, a million dollar suit was filed by the Democrats against the Committee for the Re-Election of the President for compensatory and punitive damages to the Democratic headquarters. The Nixon Committee then asked a U.S. District Court to postpone the suit until after the November 7th election. To hear the suit before the election, the Committee said, could deter campaign workers and contributions, force disclosure of confidential information and otherwise cause "incalculable damage" to President Nixon's campaign.

Just last week the ties were drawn tighter between the Watergate raid and the Republican Party. A $25,000 cashier's check drawn on a Florida bank by Kenneth Dahlberg, a prominent Minneapolis manufacturer and chief fund raiser for the Nixon midwestern campaign, turned up in the Miami bank account of Bernard Barker, one of the five arrested in Washington. The FBI has begun an investigation of how the check was transmitted to Barker while the Office of Federal Elections, a recently formed watchdog agency under the General Accounting Office of the government, was looking into possible violations of the campaign spending practices act as neither the receipt of this amount of money or its contributors were filed as the law requires.

Also when the men were captured, 53 one hundred dollar bills they carried were traced to $89,000 withdrawn by Barker shortly before the break-in, but the source of those funds remains a mystery. Last week (according to the August 14, 1972, issue of *Newsweek)* it was learned that on April 25, the same day that the $25,000 check was put into Barker's account, four other drafts totalling $89,000 were deposited from a Mexico City bank.

Mae Brussell's article in the *Realist* goes into considerable detail as to the five men involved in the raid and the four who escaped. This is the cast of characters as she describes them (although we must necessarily exclude some of the details for reasons of space).

THE FIVE MEN ARRESTED AT THE WATERGATE

1. James McCord, Jr., alias Edward Martin

Native of Texas and a Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force Reserves. Served in FBI, 1948-51, as radio operator, CIA from 1951 to 1970, former Chief of Security for "Fairfax Highway Research Station," otherwise known as the CIA. Served with special 16 man unit attached to the White House, having to do with "Emergencies, radicals and contingency plans" in case of war. Specialized in "Censorship of news media and U.S. mail." McCord was salaried Security Co-ordinator of the Committee to Re-elect Richard Nixon and was under contract as McCord Associates, Inc., to provide all security for the Republican National Convention in Miami. McCord worked with the CIA at the time of the invasion of Cuba known as the Bay of Pigs.

2. Bernard Barker, alias Frank Carter, alias "Macho."

Prominent in Republican Party in Miami and closely associated with the exiled Cuban community there. Had name of Howard Hunt in his possession at time of arrest. Hunt and Barker had worked closely planning the Bay of Pigs invasion. Hunt did the planning while Barker was responsible for transferring funds.

Barker is known to have approached architect Leonard Glass eight months before the Miami Democratic Convention for "floor plans and air conditioning plans of the Democratic Convention halls." (This took place while the Republicans were planning their convention for San Diego). Barker offered Glass "business in South America" in exchange for the air conditioning plans of the Miami convention hall, Barker was a business partner of Howard Hunt in Central America, had served with the Secret Police of dictator Batista in Cuba, and in 1964 was a conduit of CIA funds to commanders being trained in Nicaragua for anti-Castro harassment raids. Barker had helped plan demonstrations for both Miami conventions to support the war. Barker lost his citizenship 10 years ago.

3. Frank Sturgis, alias Joseph Hamilton, Frank Fiorini, and a dozen other known aliases.

U.S. Marine in World War Two, key figure in the Bay of Pigs invasion, and lost his U.S. citizenship in 1960. He regained citizenship with aid of Senator Smathers.

Sturgis had been named by Castro to be overseer of gambling operations in Havana before Castro removed the Syndicate. He is a close friend of Diaz Lanz of the Cuba exile community and is involved with such right-wing movements as the John Birch Society and Billy James Hargis' Christian Crusade. Sturgis was a key figure in the Bay of Pigs invasion and has extensive CIA contacts.

Sturgis is a Reserve Lieutenant in the Civil Air Patrol, a close friend of Bernard Barker's for eleven years, and was among those questioned by the FBI after John Kennedy's death because of his activities. Sturgis' home was an arsenal at the time, complete with 20 millimeter cannons, and he is said to have been associated through the Civil Air Patrol with David Ferrie and the Miami-Houston-Havana group named by independent researchers as involved with President Kennedy's death.

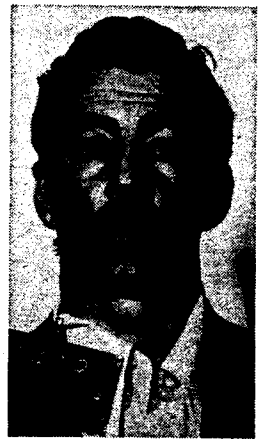
4. Eugenio Martinez

Martinez served with Castro's army and then became an anti-Castro guerrilla fighter. Worked with Bernard Barker's Miami real estate office. Howard Hunt's White House phone number was in his address book at the time of his arrest in the Watergate Hotel.

Martinez worked closely with exiled Cubans involved in military training, and was involved with Young Republicans scheduled to arrive in Miami for 1972 conventions.

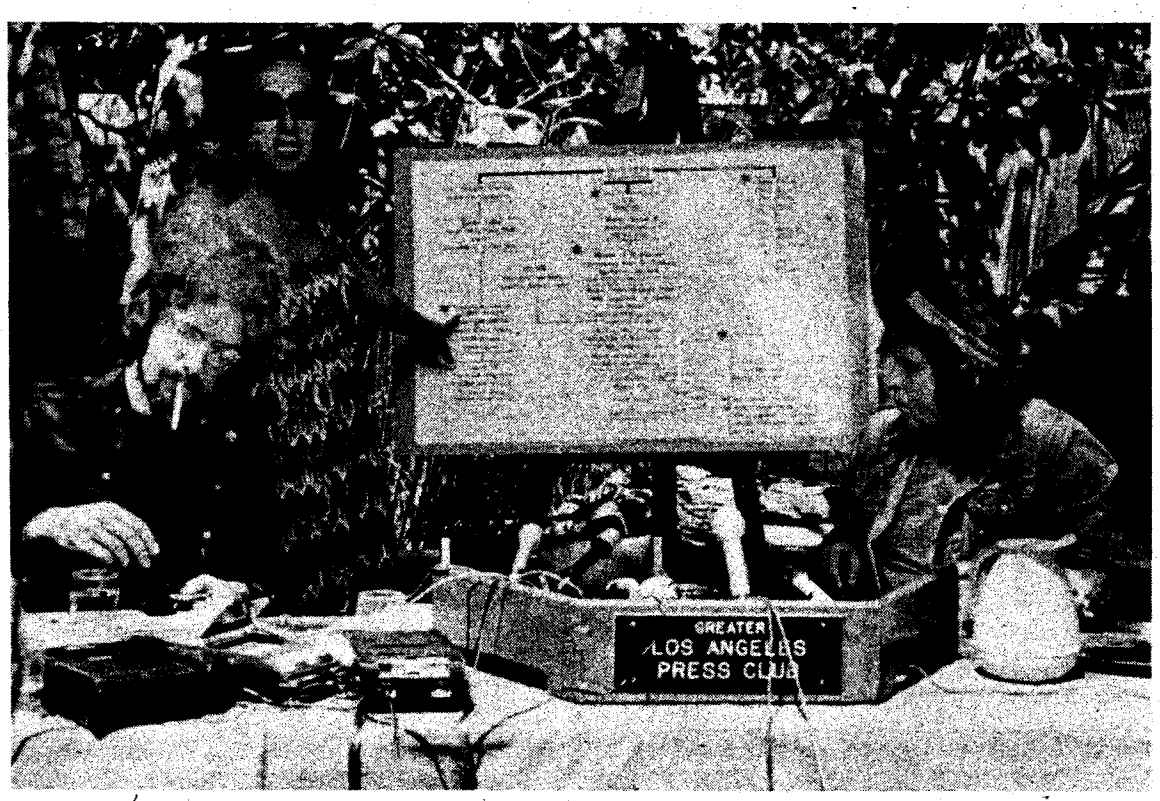
5. Vigilio Gonzales

Formerly a barber in Cuba and presently employed as locksmith in Miami. A friend of Angel Ferrer, who is president of a group called Ex-Combatientes, who evidently were involved in the Bay of Pigs invasion.



Newsweek, July 3, 1972

McCord, Martinez, Gonzales, Fiorini, Barker: What were they doing—for whom?



Mae Brussell uses the chart (reproduced elsewhere in this article) to show the chain of command of the conspiracy she is exposing. (Photo by Art Kunkin).

THE FOUR SUSPECTS WHO GOT AWAY

1. Angel Ferrer

The press gave his name as one of the suspects although the Washington police and FBI would not give out their names. Ferrer was supposed to have been registered at the Watergate Hotel. He was involved with 800 men from 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion who were moved to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, for military training.

2. Suspect — "Man from Kansas."

now attorney for the Watergate Five).

According to Mae Brussels, who could not provide the exact issue date, the *Washington Post* has in its investigations of the Watergate raid discovered that Hunt used the code name "White" while McCord used the code name "Martin." And this is where the revelations of Louis Tackwood come in.

As reported in the *Free Press* of October 22, 1971 (and clarified still further in the issue of April 21, 1972, where we printed several chapters of a book written by Tackwood),

3. Suspect — "Man from New York."

4. Suspect — "Man from New York."

OTHER NAMES INVOLVED BUT NOT ARRESTED

1. Howard Hunt, alias "Eduardo"

Hunt worked in the CIA for 21 years in Latin America, Spain and Far East. Wrote 45 novels for the CIA under the pseudonyms Robert Dietrich, John Baxter and Gordon David.

Hunt was Planning Director for the Bay of Pigs invasion, and worked closely with Barker who was conduit for funds used during the invasion. He was senior member of a Special Task Force during two periods of national emergency and was a participant in White House conferences on security matters. He was involved with the Navy Reserve, and U.S. Army Air Corps.

Hunt disappeared from Washington and New York, and perhaps even left the country, after his friends were arrested at the Watergate Hotel. His White House desk, examined by the FBI after he fled, contained a pistol and two walkie-talkies of the same frequency as those confiscated at the time of the Watergate arrests.

Hunt had shared office space with Robert Bennett of Mullen public relations firm. Bennett's organization, The American Dream, refused to disclose the source of ten million dollars raised for Nixon's re-election. Robert Mullen is co-founder for Young Americans for Freedom and is supposedly CIA. (Another co-founder of YAF, Douglas Caddy, is

Louis Tackwood was an informer for the Criminal Conspiracy Section (CCS) of the Los Angeles Police Department. At a press conference held at KPFK-FM, Tackwood stated that he had knowledge that the CCS and the FBI had organized a special squad, "Squad 19," to provoke violence at the 1972 Republican National Convention, then scheduled for San Diego. The violence would be provoked in such a manner that it could be blamed upon leftists. The object of all this was "To create a situation which would permit the President to invoke special emergency powers leading to the arrest and detention of political activists throughout the country."

At the time of Tackwood's first surfacing, the Citizens Research and Investigation Committee made a number of tapes which were used as a basis for checking his information out. The following is from "Tape H" which, according to Don Freed, was never released to the press at that time because the names involved could not be identified.

"I'm not gonna show CRIC. I'm not telling nobody all what I got on 'Squad 19' on the San Diego conspiracy. But I'm gonna show you some of it since it's starting to come out anyway. But I'm not giving up everything because, man, this is my only life insurance, you see where I'm coming from?

"I'm giving up only two names. There's Martin *and there's* White. *Alright, now.* Martin *was the code name for my contact, and I'm gonna tell you he's CIA all the way. Are you ready for this? He was in Dallas*

when they got Kennedy; he left out of there for the Carribean. And Martin *is in on the cancellation of the election, some way, and in on the concentration camp thing. He's a stone killer. This man was talking about killing Nixon and blaming it on the liberals. Then Agnew would walk in. Do you see what I'm saying.*

"Now the control, the man over Martin *is* White. *I only heard a little about him but they say he's the money man, nobody's over him but the top dogs.* Martin *and* White, *that's all I'm gonna give you now. This is my life insurance."*

Eight months after that tape was made by Louis Tackwood, two mystery men were catapulted into the headlines. Their names were McCord and Hunt. McCord, who was in charge for all security at the Republican Convention, uses the code name *Martin.* Hunt, who is in the White House and has a direct contact with Nixon through Charles Colson, the White House "Case Officer" who hired him, is known to have used the code name *White.*

Both Hunt and McCord were involved with huge amounts of money possibly related to the ten million dollars that Robert Bennet raised for Nixon's re-election from unknown sources. (Tackwood originally mentioned a ten million dollar fund when he first surfaced, and while I was writing this article Mae Brussel called to have me look at the August 14, 1972, issue of *Newsweek* which also quotes Arthur Bremer as having mentioned "tens of millions of $").

There is much more that Mae Brussell said in her discourse at the Los Angeles Press Club, and still more detail in her *Realist* article (which the reader can obtain either at newsstands or directly from *The Realist,* Box 379, Stuyvesant Station, New York, N.Y. 10009. Individual copies are 50 cents but a subscription is only $3.00, and Mae Brussel is planning to write another article for the next issue as well).

Unfortunately, because there are so many details, and she is evidently not experienced either as a speaker or writer, the newsmen present at the conference who have a built-in bias against criticism of the government, did not seem to really grasp all the interconnections. Instead of concentrating on one or two hard facts. Ms. Brussell invited the newsmen to her home to look at the 18,000 cross filed references she based her article on. Therefore, it is doubtful that an adequate presentation of the subject of this article will appear in the establishment press until, perhaps, the gruesome facts become more apparent than this writer would care to see.

One of the reporters, for example, could not see any substance in Mae Brussell's presentation because he felt that if the invisible government she was describing was so powerful, the arrest at the Watergate Hotel could have been avoided.

The reporter clearly failed to see that what she was describing is a *process* which is offset for the moment by the democratic heritage of the United States. Even when the Nazi Party in Germany planned the Reichstag Fire as a means of inflaming public sentiment against the German radicals, the plot did not happen perfectly and there were many who immediately saw through it.

Another point that the reporters did not seem to understand in Ms. Brussell's unfortunately rambling discourse was her emphasis on the

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Martha Mitchell phone call where Martha Mitchell said to a UPI reporter until her phone was ripped out of the wall: "I am a political prisoner ... I know dirty things ... I saw dirty things ... I am not going to stand for all those dirty tricks that go on ... I was a patriot until I got assassinated. What country can I go to ... They threw me down on the bed, five men, and stuck a needle in my behind. A doctor stitched my finger after the battle with five guards."

None of the reporters seemed to understand that an investigator like Ms. Brussell tries to put disconnected facts together to form a theory that can be tested, and it would obviously be very interesting to know if four extra guards appeared in Martha Mitchell's room after four persons registered at the hotel and involved in the "wiretapping" disappeared. The government admits that Martha Mitchell had one guard assigned to her, but could John Mitchell have used his own family as a cover to help four men leave Washington? And could Patrick Gray III, acting head of the FBI, and in the same hotel as the Mitchells after the Watergate arrests, have been involved also?

Much of Mae Brussell's other speculations, which could provide a basis for serious investigative work, likewise went way over the heads of the reporters present, such as her attempt to indicate in what ways the shift of the Republican Convention from San Diego to Miami could change the plans of "Squad 19." But such subtleties were bound to escape the establishment journalists because they were politically unable to cope with the premise that "The significance of the Watergate affair is that every element essential for a political coup d'etat in the United States was assembled at the time of their arrest. The team of men represented at the hotel went all the way from the White House with its Emergency Contingency Units, walkie talkies on assigned radio frequencies to the paid street provocateurs and troops who would create the emergencies."

Paul Krassner made a valiant, and profound attempt, to penetrate the bias of the reporters, when he said:

"I think it's a form of American chauvinism to think that when the CIA and the Rand Corporation can systematically set up a dictatorship in Greece and in Saigon, that it couldn't happen here .... It's a huge psychic chess game. It's no accident that Nixon wants to meet Bobby Fischer ... I think we underestimate the insidiousness of American intelligence."

How American 'advisors' manufacture the 'top men'

Pacific News Service
LIBERATION News Service

PARIS — So many Presidents, Premiers, Vice-Presidents have been manufactured and disposed of in Vietnam with the help of U.S. "advisors," that it is hard for most Americans to remember how many there were. They have come and gone amidst much verbiage of free elections and many lofty U.S. statements about allowing the Vietnamese to "decide for themselves." A kind of underground railway between Saigon and Paris has helped retire these men to harmless obscurity when their time was up.

Beginning with the Emperor Bao Dai, and perhaps someday including Nguyen Van Thieu, they arrive in France to live off Swiss bank accounts cashiered from their homeland while they "served" their people.

Exile has invariably led to excessive candor, previously absent. With little else to do, they often granted interviews. But because these men have no longer had the trappings of power, few have bothered to notice what they said.

Nguyen Khanh is the portly, goateed General who in 1964 followed Big Minh (successor to Ngo Dinh Diem), and was followed in his own turn by Nguyen Xuan Oanh (who in dizzying succession was then followed by Premier Tran Van Huong). In a recent interview with the German magazine *Stern*, Khanh recalled how he became Chief of State, and speculated on possibilities for peace in Vietnam.

* * *

General, is the South Vietnamese President really a mere puppet of the United States?

I have never told anyone how I became Chief of State. If I tell you now, it will indirectly answer your question.

As commander of the 1st Army Corps in Da Nang I had a U.S. adviser with me, Colonel Wilson. On 30 January, 1964, Wilson told me a coup d'etat was planned in Saigon and that I was to become President. I could not believe this and sent Wilson to Saigon to investigate the situation. In the event the rumor was true Wilson was to call me and say, "The assistance action for the Montagnards (South Vietnamese Mountain tribes) can be started."

At 1400 hours Wilson gave the cue from Saigon. I arrived in Saigon at 1800 hours, with three men. The Americans had already arranged everything. The official junta under Duong Van Minh was declared deposed. On 8 February 1964 I took over as Premier.

Why did the Americans pick you, of all people?

That I do not know exactly. I suppose because I am a "Cochinchinois," a man from the delta. The people from the Mekong Delta are considered anti-North Vietnamese. The Americans believed they found in me a relentless fighter against Ho Chi Minh.

But this was not said openly?

No. On the morning of the day I took power I was to give reporters at my first press conference a reason for the coup d'etat. I could hardly tell them the truth. This is why I said that I wanted to restore the unity of the Army and get the nation solidly behind me. In fact, I tried this afterwards, with the inclusion of the National Liberation Front.

But the Americans did not want to go that far?

This is why I was only their "good boy" for a few months. At the time, as President, I maintained constant contact with the American Ambassadors Cabot Lodge and Maxwell Taylor — came to Saigon in mid-1964 — visited me nearly every day. To the Americans, the people of the National Liberation Front were the "communists," nothing else. To me, they were not communists, but revolutionaries. I wanted to make peace in 1965. I wanted to prevent the Americanization of the war. I said this time and again to Cabot Lodge and Maxwell Taylor. And this ultimately broke my neck. In mid-February of 1965, I was overthrown by the Americans and sent off as "special envoy" abroad.

Why were you later deprived of the status of special envoy?

In late 1965 I talked with UN Secretary U Thant in New York. I told him that I wanted to do everything to make peace with the National Liberation Front. That was when I lost my job.

What is the situation now, in 1972? Washington has presented its peace plan, Hanoi has rejected it. Will the war go on then?

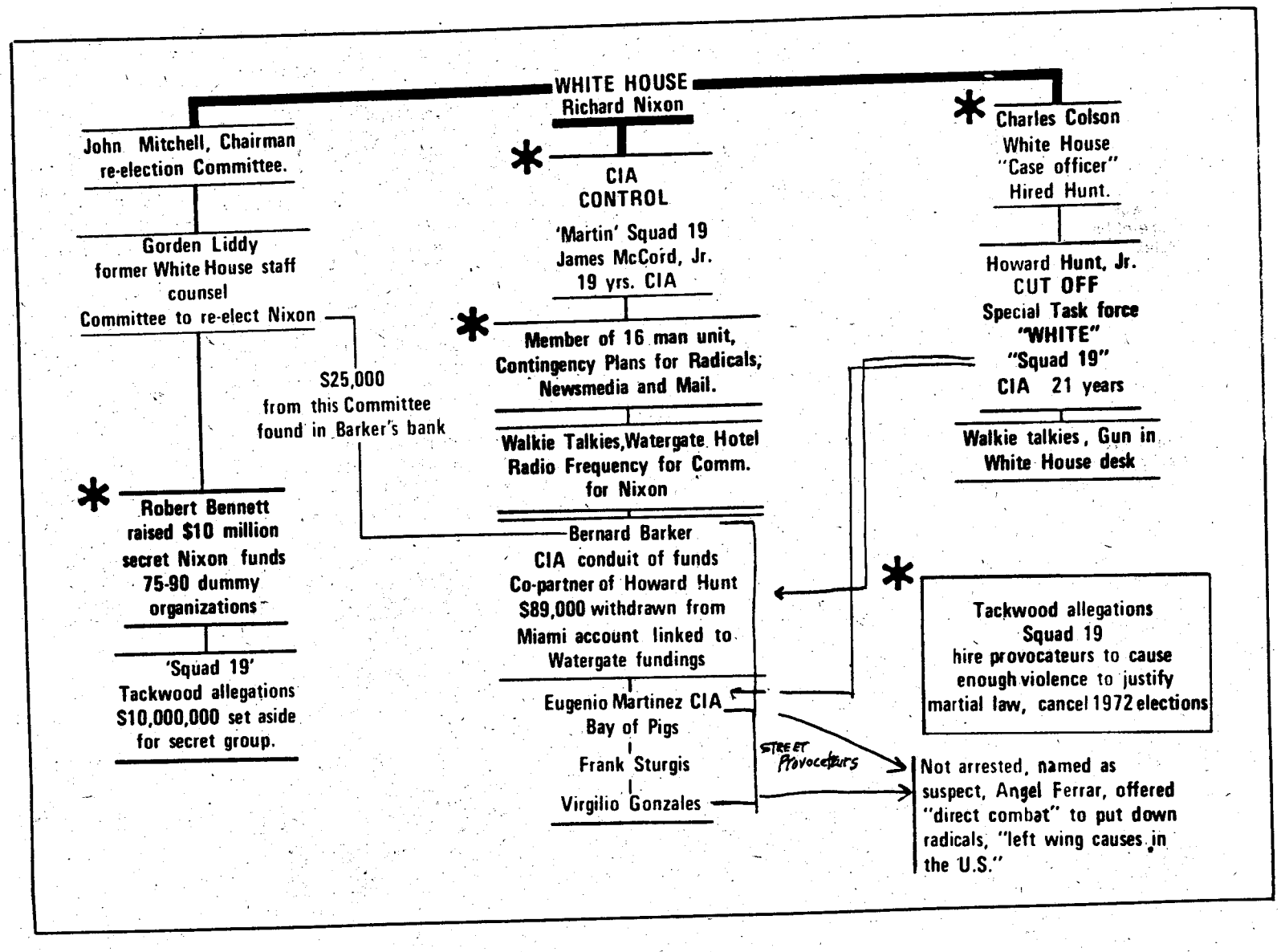
If the Americans really intended to leave Vietnam to the Vietnamese, then for the first time since 1965 the possibility would emerge of solving the Vietnam problem. But I do not believe that Nixon is putting his cards on the table.

But it is a matter of fact that Nixon — quite apart from his peace plan — will pull out another 70,000 soldiers from Vietnam. Then a mere 69,000 will remain.

The military role of the United States has little to do with the number of its ground troops. This role will be played in the future by B-52 bombers which are stationed outside of Vietnam, above all in Thailand. There are still 32,000 Americans in Thailand, most of them in the air force. Whenever things do not work with the so-called Vietnamization the government in Saigon will ask for B-52 missions to smash communist concentrations. Thus the country will be destroyed even more than heretofore.

But let us assume that a peace treaty would come. Then the U.S., according to Nixon, wants to remain fully "neutral" in the election preparations, that is to say leave Vietnam to the Vietnamese.

What do you mean "Vietnam to the Vietnamese"? The boss in Saigon is not Thieu but the U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker.


WHITE HOUSE
Richard Nixon
John Mitchell, Chairman re-election Committee.
Gorden Liddy former White House staff counsel Committee to re-elect Nixon
Robert Bennett raised $10 million secret Nixon funds 75-90 dummy organizations
'Squad 19' Tackwood allegations $10,000,000 set aside for secret group.
$25,000 from this Committee found in Barker's bank
CIA CONTROL
'Martin' Squad 19 James McCord, Jr. 19 yrs. CIA
Member of 16 man unit, Contingency Plans for Radicals, Newsmedia and Mail.
Walkie Talkies, Watergate Hotel Radio Frequency for Comm. for Nixon
Bernard Barker CIA conduit of funds Co-partner of Howard Hunt $89,000 withdrawn from Miami account linked to Watergate fundings
Eugenio Martinez CIA Bay of Pigs
Frank Sturgis
Virgilio Gonzales
Charles Colson White House "Case officer" Hired Hunt.
Howard Hunt, Jr. CUT OFF Special Task force "WHITE" "Squad 19" CIA 21 years
Walkie talkies, Gun in White House desk
Tackwood allegations Squad 19 hire provocateurs to cause enough violence to justify martial law, cancel 1972 elections
STREET Provocateurs
Not arrested, named as suspect, Angel Ferrar, offered "direct combat" to put down radicals, "left wing causes in the U.S."